

Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the title as follows:

FACILITATING IP-BASED MULTICASTING WITHIN ATM NETWORK NODES

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 14-19, as follows:

Many public and private communication networks include hierarchical networks of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) layer equipment (i.e. deployed ATM network nodes). To provide new IP-based multicast services within such networks, it is necessary to enable IP multicasting capabilities within such networks. However, it is often not be-feasible or desirable to retrofit IP layer capabilities or new hardware into deployed ATM network nodes of such networks.

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 10-14, as follows:

It should be understood that ~~that~~ a DSLAM is one example of a network element of a network node. Accordingly, the hub DSLAM 102, the first DSLAM 104 and the second DSLAM 106 are examples of network elements of respective network nodes. Such respective network nodes may comprise one or more DSLAMs as well as other types of network elements.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 23, and ending on page 11, line 3, as follows:

The first subtending DSLAM 204 includes a network element control module 218, a DSL interface module 220 and a subtending interface module 222. The network element control module 218, the DSL interface module 220 and the subtending interface module 122 are interconnected for enabling communication therebetween. The network element control module 218 at least partially controls operation of various network elements (e.g. the DSL interface module 220 and the subtending interface module 222) of the first subtending DSLAM 204. Furthermore, the network element control module 218 of the first subtended DSLAM 204 is connected to the subtending interface module 214 of the hub DSLAM 202, thus enabling

communication between the hub DSLAM 202 and the first subtended DSLAM 204. The DSL Interface module 220 enables communication between the first subtended DSLAM ~~104~~ 204 and the plurality of DSL subscriber apparatuses 208 connected to the first subtended DSLAM 204. The subtending interface module 222 supports communication between the first subtending DSLAM ~~104~~ 204 and the second subtended DSLAM ~~106~~ 206.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 28, and ending on page 14, line 6, as follows:

FIG. 9 depicts a method 300 for facilitating IP multicasting functionality in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosures made herein. The method 300 begins at an operation 302 for implementing centralized multicast control functionality. The operation 302 for implementing centralized multicast control functionality includes performing a step 304 for implementing an IP Gateway module at an IP layer of a first network node and performing a step ~~304~~ 306 for implementing a control protocol terminating module at an ATM layer of one or more network nodes (i.e. a second, network node, a third network node, etc) that are in subtending relationship with respect to the first network node. The one or more network nodes are referred to herein as subtending network nodes.